A-2958

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-4, 7-9, and 11-16 remain in the application. Claims 1-3, 7-9, 11, 13, and 15 have been amended. Claims 5, 6, and 10 have been cancelled.

In the second paragraph on page 2 of the Office action, claims 1-16 have been rejected as being obvious over Yokoyama et al. (U.S Patent No. 6,077,207) (hereinafter "Yokoyama") in view of Murray (U.S Patent No. 6,041,706) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

The rejection has been noted and the claims have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. The claims are patentable for the reasons set forth below. Support for the changes is found on page 10, lines 7-17 of the specification.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claims 1, 11, and 15 call for, *inter alia*:

a sheet-guiding cylinder jacket profile having a spherical surface structure, and an easy-clean microstructure layer as a surface coating for the sheet-guiding cylinder jacket profile.

It is noted that the corporate assignee of the Murray reference is also the corporate assignee of the instant application, therefore applicants are very familiar with the Murray reference.

The Yokoyama reference discloses a surface-coarsened layer (12), which is covered by a ceramic layer (15) (Figs 1 and 3).

The Murray reference discloses a blanket cylinder including a material of low polarity surface energy, such as PTFE (abstract).

The references do not show or suggest a sheet-guiding cylinder jacket profile having a spherical surface structure, and an easy-clean microstructure layer as a surface coating for the sheet-guiding cylinder jacket profile, as recited in claims 1, 11, and 15 of the instant application.

The Yokoyama reference discloses a jacket profile of irregular shape, the jacket profile does not have a spherical surface structure. This is contrary to the invention of the instant application as claimed, in which the jacket profile has a

spherical surface structure. Furthermore, the Yokoyama reference discloses a ceramic covering layer (15), which is not an easy-clean microstructure layer. This is also contrary to the invention of the instant application as claimed, in which an easy-clean microstructure layer is provided as a surface coating for the sheet-guiding cylinder jacket profile.

The Murray reference only discloses the use of a blanket cylinder having PTFE. Murray does not disclose a jacket profile having a spherical structure or an easy-clean microstructure layer provided as a surface coating.

Therefore, claims 1, 11, and 15 are not obvious over Yokoyama in view of Murray.

Since claims 1, 11, and 15 are believed to be allowable, dependent claims 2-3, 7-9, 12-14, and 16 are believed to be allowable as well.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1, 11, or 15. Claims 1, 11, and 15 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 1, 11, or 15, they are believed to be patentable as well.

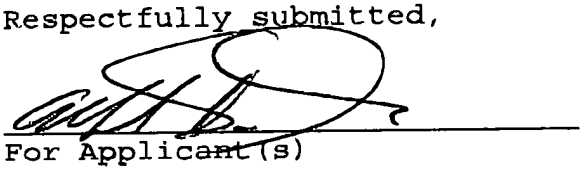
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-4, 7-9, and 11-16 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner & Greenberg P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



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For Applicant(s)

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